

A NEW YEAR SONG OF THE DOG

—Written for the Year of the Dog, 2018—

At the beginning
Of the Year of the Dog,
I reverentially greet the glorious New Year's Day sunrise,
Looking back on the Year of the Rooster that has just gone by,
And think of what will be in store for my year.

The prospect of peace
In the human world seems rather dark
With all the conflicts, distrust and terrorism,
But I'll bark
My first, loudest bark of the year
In the park
With all the power of my strong throat
And bring in a spark of hope
Into human hearts,
Reminding them of the foolishness of fighting,
Reminding them of the merit
Of turning the gray deserts
Into green grasslands
With the fresh water of friendly cooperation,
Where will sing many a lark
For the good of all the living things.
And let the human beings listen
To the beautiful music of Bach.

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